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OUR ALASKAN AFFAIRS.

RESOURCES AND NEEDS OF OUR NORTH PACIFIC TERRITORY.

Sadly in Need of an Organized Government—Treaty Promises of Protection Thus Far Wholly Unfulfilled. Washington—National News.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 18.—Governor Swineford, the recently appointed governor of Alaska, left St. Paul for San Francisco, and will in a few days sail thence to his post of duty. He goes without definite instructions from the government, but is expected by October 1 to have become acquainted so well with the needs of the territory as to be able to make a preliminary report to the president. Subsequently he will be instructed as to the desires of the administration in establishing territorial government in our most northern possessions. Governor Swineford has asked the appointment of Mr. R. D. Crittenden as collector of customs for Alaska, an office scarcely less important in its relations to the territory than that of governor. Mr. Crittenden has been a resident of Wrangel Island, near the mouth of the Stikine river, for seven years. He is a native of South Carolina, but has lived on the Pacific coast since 1849. He cultivates a vegetable farm near Fort Wrangel and takes great interest in the future of the territory.

In an interview with Mr. Crittenden he gave some very interesting information regarding the country and its future under the new territorial government.

"Affairs in Alaska," said Mr. Crittenden, "have been unfavorable to a right understanding of its true condition since its purchase by the United States. Its most valuable franchises have been in the hands of a few traders, who but repeat the history of all similar experiences, when, to prevent the diminution of their profits by competition, they persistently deny the resources of the territory. On the other hand, men from speculative motives, or tourists struck with the unexpected charms of its scenery and climate, have given too highly colored descriptions of its advantages. The general opinion has been formed from the disparaging representations, which, having been conducted with system and by the potent agent of ridicule, have created such an unjust prejudice that even in our legislative halls men sneer down the crying claims of Alaska with as little reason as the supposed statesman of the last century had for denouncing the British government for spending so much blood and treasure for a few acres of Canada snow."

"What, in your opinion, is the future of the territory, now that it is to have a regular form of government?"

"The commercial and political situation of the country with reference to future possibilities and intercourse with the North of Asia and its already assured resources render the fact of its continued importance, and also its great value a moral certainty. That it contains much mineral wealth can not be doubted. That its fur trade, properly protected, will be a long abiding source of revenue is sure. Even its agricultural and grazing industries will become important as our population increases, and its timber and fishing resources offer a field of vast and lasting value."

"The general idea of Alaska does not agree with your description, as you have probably learned during your visit east this summer?"

"I know this is much to say for a country in which, though containing a large civilized population—for the Half-Breeds and Aleuts of the west number over four thousand—there has not existed for seventeen years the slightest vestige of civil law, and where the only protection for life, liberty or property has been the arbitrary will of a military or naval commander, often exercised with utter disregard of right or justice. Such has been our government's shameful neglect of a people whom it stipulated, under the solemn covenant of a treaty, to endow with all the rights, advantages and immunities of citizens of the United States. Its most profitable industries have been given over to the control of adventurers, its citizens renounced to the caprices or lust of military officials, thus forcing the best of them into exile, the development of its resources obstructed, its schools and hospitals closed. And those who hailed with joy their deliverance from Russian serfdom have learned to curse the domination of American freedom as the incarnation of bitterness and degradation. Only after seventeen years of this neglect has an imperfect ray of hope reached them in the act of congress approved May 17, 1884, giving them an incomplete and mutilated form of civil government for 'The District of Alaska.' And even the full measure of this tardy relief has been practically denied, from the utter unworthiness of some of the more important officials appointed to execute its provisions."

"Then what suggestions can be made to improve the form of government?"

"The question of a remedy for the wrongs presents itself strongly to the new administration. Additional legislation is needed, and a generous application of authority already existing. The first necessity, as it is the primary right of the people, is representation. It is difficult to conceive why it was repudiated in the act referred to, since it is the fundamental principle of our liberty, and must be one of the 'rights and advantages' promised. It has been advantageously conferred, with the full form of territorial government, on some of our most valuable states and territories at a time when they had a smaller civilized population than Alaska has. And the reasons which existed in those cases prevail a fortiori in the instance of a territory so remote, so little understood, so persistently misrepresented. Even on the score of economy it is desirable, as the expense of congressional committees of inquiry would far exceed that of the provision of a delegate."

"What will be some of the results of the law making Alaska a territorial district?"

"A large sum of money has been appropriated for educational purposes in the territory. Its benefits will not reach those who were children when our specious promise was given, and who are uneducated men and women now. It is tardy justice, and

should therefore be the more discreetly extended. The disbursements of this fund should be entrusted to entirely non-sectarian hands, upon general principles and especially here, since the neglect of our government has operated with most harshness upon the children of the old native Russian people, who are nearly all members of the Greek church, which does not recognize any other sectarian control in the training of their offspring. And this church, in its people, its property and its tenets, is specially protected under the language of our treaty. And yet, through the act of the late secretary of the interior, this important duty to all the Alaska people has been committed to a sectarian clergyman, whose only claim to this distinction results from his prominence in establishing mission schools there, in connection with which he has always managed to further his own personal pecuniary interests. This educational agent was indicted under five charges by the first grand jury that met in the territory, which was last spring."

"What has been your observation of the attempt to educate this class of people?"

"The education they have received so far has been used as a means of display on 'dress parade,' to which they are generally summoned on the advent of tourists, and has not created that true reform in morals and mode of life which should be its highest purpose. Released from the control of the schools they relapse into the licentiousness of the ranch. A non-sectarian and thoroughly business system, applicable to the immediate temporal necessities of the Indian race, is the proper plan for the benefit both of government and people. This requires a non-sectarian management. The mission schools are now, as they have been always, liberally sustained through their church contributions. The government funds should be more liberally disbursed than in their maintenance alone."

"What has been your experience as a farmer in Alaska?"

"My own practical experience of seven years in southeastern Alaska teaches me that while the cereal will not ripen there, the smaller fruits and hardier vegetables flourish in the greatest luxuriance, and that the grasses most conducive to the sustenance of cattle grow in such profusion that stock can be raised with the least trouble and the greatest profit, requiring no more attention in the winter than they do here in the latitude of Washington, and making their own raising, even for purposes of exportation, should the extension of the land laws hereafter create an inducement for immigration most sure to become an important industry."

"The purchase of Alaska, you still think, then, was a wise one for our government?"

"The time will come when, owing to the cheapness of living and the improvements due to proper protection, the islands of the Alaskan Archipelago will support a large population; and, from their habits of life, our government will draw from them, as even now it does in a comparatively wondrous degree it does from the Pacific coast, its hardest sailors and most enterprising navigators."

A Correction.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 18.—Comptroller Durham has written to ex-Commissioner of Agriculture Loring stating that the latter is wrong in his statement that department accounts for "machinery and experiments" have been disallowed. None of the disallowed accounts, Mr. Durham says, were for expenditures of these classes.

Unfounded Rumor.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 18.—At the treasury department it is denied that there is any secret committee appointed to visit the New Orleans mint. The foundation for the story, they say, probably lies in the existence of the committee appointed in connection with the transfer of silver from the New Orleans mint.

Pennsylvania Postmasters.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 18.—The following fourth-class postmasters were appointed for Pennsylvania: Mrs. Sarah C. Gray, Shamberg; George S. Brobeck, Codorus; John F. Stier, Johnsville; Ellwood Gordon, Dauphin; B. F. Shartzon, Granville; C. C. Galwicks, St. Thomas.

Work to Resume.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 18.—Orders will be issued from the navy department in a few days directing work to recommence at all navy yards where it was suspended last June, when the appropriations were exhausted.

Resigned.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 18.—Henry J. Armstrong, agent for the Crow Indians in Montana, has resigned.

Passenger Rates.

NEW YORK, Aug. 18.—Orders were issued from the offices of the general passenger agents of the New York Central and West Shore railroads directing the local ticket agents on those roads to discontinue the sale of the cent-a-mile tickets to all points east of Utica on the Central and to Onondaga Castle on the West Shore; also, to advance the local rates to two cents a mile between New York and these points. This advance restores the local rates to the prices ruling before the cut in October of last year. To points beyond Utica the New York Central is still selling tickets at special rates, the fare to Syracuse being \$5.50, to Rochester \$6.00, and to all points between Rochester and Buffalo \$6.50. To Detroit the fare is \$7.00, and to Chicago the old rate of \$8.50 is still maintained. At the "cut-rate" offices along Broadway there is a lively demand for cent-a-mile tickets, and the small supply of them was going off rapidly. Excursion tickets to Buffalo, good for thirty days, are quoted at \$7.00. To Chicago and other points west the same rates that have ruled for ten months were posted, but there was a general feeling that the end of the passenger rate war was near at hand, and that in a week's time, and possibly in less than twenty-four hours, full rates would be established to all points in the west.

BOSTON, Aug. 18.—The Record says that J. Q. Wendell, one of the defendants in the Mary Clisette wrecking case, the trial of which resulted in a disagreement, has lost his reason and is raving maniac. He has been ill some days.

The steamer J. H. Russell, when about starting out from the Lafayette (Ind.) wharf, with a picnic party on board, began to sink. The people were all rescued.

FACTS AND FIGURES.

SECRET OF ADVANCE OF BANKRUPT STOCKS IN WALL STREET.

A Kind of Contra-Panic Affair Among the Moneyed Men—The Morgan-Vanderbilt Scheme—The Grizzlies Badly Wounded—Dangerous Features.

NEW YORK, Aug. 18.—The stock market continues to work in a way which baffles all attempts to bring it into connection with the general condition of affairs throughout the country. More than this, it baffles even the attempts at anything like an analysis. In less than six weeks' time the leading stocks had an advance of from 15 to 25 points for the leading securities, while stocks of bankrupt roads in many instances doubled in price. All this occurred without even the most enthusiastic bulls ever anticipating the possibility of such a move. All they dreamed of and working for was a quiet and slow advance going on a parallel with the improvement in general business, which, it was argued, must naturally come after the long spell of depression through which the country has passed. This improvement did not come, and does not show much indication of coming, but the stock market cut loose from all outside influences, and was started on its mad upward career by a handful of alarmed bankers and capitalists.

A very shrewd old Wall street speculator says he noticed as far back as January last a badly concealed alarm among capitalists in regard to their incomes, and a steady determination to get at least some interest upon their capital which was lying idle, and which would have had to be eaten into unless it was set to work in some way or another. They did not see any opening in either their own or their friends' legitimate business, and thought that the safest thing to do was to buy cheap bonds of the railroad corporations. At the close of last year any number of such bonds, bearing from 5 to 7 per cent. were selling at sixty and seventy cents on the dollar, and sharp and close-fisted old men began to pick up these bonds. They do not buy much, but they bought enough to attract the attention of other moneyed people, and in a few weeks, and while the stock market was steadily breaking down, an unusually large demand for cheap bonds was created.

The fear of being compelled to live on their capital instead of living on the interest of it created among rich men a kind of contra-panic. They became as anxious now to find an investment for their capital as they had been ever since the fall of 1881 to get out of their investments and to put their cash into the bank or in some cases, even into the safe deposit vaults. Of course, after they made such investments, they talked of them to their friends, who, in turn, began to buy, and these, in their turn, talked to their friends. All of them bought "a little," advancing the price very steadily, but so quietly that any broker making bond business a specialty noticed this advance. Those who started this movement had no interest and probably no confidence in the properties the securities of which they had thus become possessed of. All they wanted was a return for the money disbursed.

Consequently the moment they saw an advance in prices they sold out without awaiting the payment of interest. Some bonds of this class advanced from twenty to thirty per cent. in the last six months, and gave ample opportunity for shrewd and cautious men to make very handsome turns by buying a low priced bond, talking it up for awhile, selling it out at 10 or 12 per cent. profit, and putting the money into some other and cheaper bond. This broad movement, although not noticed either by the general public or even by the majority of stock speculators, has prepared the way, and partly even the means for the present bull movement.

While capitalists, driven to despair, were thus making speculative turns instead of business-like investments, bankers, at home and abroad, became terribly alarmed at the speed with which stocks were going down. It was particularly so with the bankers who stood at the heads of different syndicates, and who, in that capacity, held a large amount of unsalable securities. They put their heads together, and, through the instrumentality of Mr. Pierpont Morgan, began to work Wm. H. Vanderbilt. The working was done well, and the results of it are now known to everybody who takes any interest in Wall street affairs. When it became known that Vanderbilt had agreed to the West Shore and South Pennsylvania schemes, and that he was buying stocks in anticipation of the restoration of rates, the same old coons who had been dabbling for the first five or six months of this year in cheap bonds and had the profit on them, sold them out, and began to buy those stocks which were most likely to be favorably affected by the Morgan-Vanderbilt scheme. Prominent among such stocks were, of course, New York Central and Lake Shore, and people who would not touch these stocks at 84 and 52, respectively, are now buying them right and left, after they have advanced nearly 20 points.

As a matter of course, the immense short interest gave a powerful help to the upward movement, and six weeks have so changed the speculative minds of Wall street that there is hardly a bear argument to be heard on the streets. All the grizzlies have been so badly scared and hurt that there is none of them to be found within gunshot of the stock exchange. The most curious point is that certain newspapers, which but six weeks ago predicted all sorts of calamities to railroad corporations, and advised their readers to get out of stocks at any price, are to-day advising them to buy almost anything on the list, notwithstanding the great advance which has taken place in prices. Some of the financial writers go so far as to aver that a 4 per cent. West Shore bond is bound to become a favorite investment security for trust funds, and will sell as high as the best government bonds are selling now. There is nothing surprising in the fact that this sudden change in the temper of Wall street speculation did not limit itself to the securities directly affected by the pending negotiations. It spread itself all over the list, and irredeemably doomed securities have in many instances been benefited much more than those in the interest of which the nego-

tiations are being carried on.

Thus for instance, a man who was tricky and smart enough to make ten or even fifteen points on New York Central or Lake Shore has comparatively made a much smaller profit out of his venture than the man who bought Denver, Reading, Erie or Wabash at the low figures prevailing six weeks ago. Some of these stocks have doubled in prices.

This last feature of the market is an extremely dangerous one. It shows that speculation is being carried on in a crazy, helter-skelter manner, which must have very pleasant results if any kind of a pending negotiations should occur, or if the existing combination of railroad traffic should prove to be unamenable to pooling arrangements as has been heretofore. Although it is, in a way, to write the market down when it is up, and still more useless to recommend caution to speculators who are intoxicated with the success they have had since Mr. Depew and Mr. Morgan came out as the mouthpiece of Mr. Vanderbilt, still it is not out of place to remind those who, attracted by the speculative boom, may be drifted toward Wall street, that the negotiations are not yet concluded, and cannot be carried out for months to come, even if concluded at once, that the rates, even if restored, cannot be kept up, and that the benefit of everything that could possibly be obtained for the various railroad corporations concerned has been fully discounted.

There are stocks which may show profit if bought at a long pull; but, taking the list as a whole, it appears absurdly high to any man who attempts to bring a little logic into the discussion of Wall street affairs. But logic is of little avail in Wall street, and all an observer of or a writer on Wall street topics has to do is to watch the current, and to be always prepared to see the market do exactly the opposite of what it should do under normal circumstances. The boldest and most successful Wall street operators pride themselves on their ability to "corner" their own common sense and judgment. They aver that even experience is of no avail in Wall street, for the oldest and most experienced men in it are, as a rule, very poor. In this case, for instance, men to whom nobody will deny the possession of an immense amount of both common sense and experience—men like Gould, Cammack, Henry T. Smith and several others—have probably not made a cent by the deal in regard to which they ought to have been informed much earlier than they have been, and it does not seem probable that they and their followers will allow the operators holding possession of the field at present to carry away the booty.

The big profits so far have been made mostly on paper. Only the small board room traders have so far been able to realize their profits by taking quick advantages of the daily fluctuations of the market. The big operators concerned in this deal and working the market both here and in London, have not yet attempted to sell, and will probably have to wait long before they can do so without creating as big a bull stampede as that which the bears have recently been subjected to.

Sentenced.

WINNEPEG, Man., Aug. 18.—Judge Richardson, at Regina, sentenced the following rebel Half-Breeds: Alex. Carpen, Maxime Dubois, Pierre Henry, Maxime Lepine, Albert Monkman, Pierre Porenteau, Albert Vaudelle, Phillip Guardufrey, Phillip Garrott, James Short, Baptiste Vaudelle, to seven years in the penitentiary. Alexander Fisher, Pierre Guardufrey, Moise Quellatte, three years. Joseph Arcand, Ignace Poitras, Jr., Ignace Poitras, Sr., Moise Parantone, one year in Regina jail. Joseph Delarue, Alexander Labontard, Joseph Pelon, Baptiste Rochelau, Patrie Towrand, Francis Towrand, dismissed from custody, to appear for sentence when called upon. Court then adjourned formally, but resubmitted immediately to pass sentence on the Indian "One Arrow," convicted of treason-felony. The old Indian made an eloquent attempt to prove himself a good Indian, but was sentenced to three years in the penitentiary.

Highlanders.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Aug. 18.—The annual gathering of the Caledonian club attracted a large attendance to Rising Sun park. The club left headquarters in full highland costume, shortly after 7 o'clock and made a street parade. They were accompanied by the Highland guards of the New York Caledonian club, Capt. Budge McLean in full highland uniform. Mr. A. M. Stewart, editor of the Scottish American Journal, and Chief Nicholson, of the New York Caledonian club, accompany the Highland guard.

Booming "Mikado."

BALTIMORE, Aug. 18.—Mr. John T. Ford, proprietor of Ford's Opera house, made application to Judge Duffy for an injunction against Samuel Fort, manager of the Academy of Music, Harry Allen and others, from producing Gilbert and Sullivan's opera "Mikado," or in part, portion or imitation thereof. The injunction was issued. It was the intention of Mr. Ford to produce the opera at the Academy. Mr. Ford claims the sole right to produce the opera in and south of Baltimore.

In Bill Nyeland.

FORT WASHAKIE, Wyo., Aug. 18.—Agent Martin, of the Shoshone Agency, is in daily expectation of instructions from the Indian department to order all whites off the reservation, except the department employees. In a row over the gambling table Charles Williams was shot and instantly killed by Frank Howard. Both men were under the influence of liquor, and belonged to the sporting fraternity. Howard is now in the county jail.

Deadwood Doings.

DEADWOOD, Dak., Aug. 18.—Michael Koentz, a miner, born near Columbus, O., lately from Lake Superior, was instantly killed in the Desmet mine by the premature discharge of giant powder. Charles Dougherty, formerly of Burlington, Vermont, a miner, committed suicide by blowing the entire front of his head off with a Sharp's rifle discharged under his chin.

Sold Out.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Aug. 18.—The Buffalo Evening Telegraph has been sold to E. V. Butler, proprietor of the Buffalo Evening News, who took possession. The publication of the Telegraph will be discontinued.